(d) whether Government made any budgetary provision every year to provide one point electricity connections to those living below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As per 1991 census, about 31% houses in the rural areas and about 76% in urban areas, have been electrified. The release of connections is a continuous process phased over number of years. Further, progress depends upon various factors such as availability of power and financial capacity of domestic consumers/Electricity Boards to avail/ facilitate new connections.

(c) and (d) As on 31st March, 1999, 33.6 lakhs connections have been released under the Kutir Jyoti Programme. Rural Electrification Corporation has drawn up a programme for releasing 5,40,000 connections under Kutir Jyoti Programme during the year 1999-2000 for which Government have allocated Rs.54.00 crores in B.E. 1999-2000.

During 9th Plan, the targets and achievements under the Kutir Jyoti Programme are as under:—

Year	Budgetary Provision (B.E.) (Rs. Crs.)	Target (No. of connections)	Achievements (No. of connections)
1997-98	25	2.80 lakhs	3.73 lakhs
1998-99	40	5.40 lakhs	5.30 lakhs
1999-2000*	54	5.40 lakhs	1,52,090 lakhs

*as on 31.10.1999.

Bank Guarantee for Jawaharpur Power Project

†1479. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jawaharpur Power Project has not been commissioned even after four years of entering into an agreement;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether, with the efforts non-resident Indians, Global Development Company of USA has proposed to invest a capital of more than Rs.6000 crores in the project, on lesser rate of interest, in comparision to earlier conditions wherein a mention of direct profit of Rs.3100 crores has been made;

(c) whether the company is asking for initial bank guarantee of about Rs.2000 crores for one year which is 1/3 of the total cost; and

(d) whether Central Government would find out any solution, is consultation with the State Government, with regard to the Bank Guarantee, which would in the form of safe keeping receipt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Government of Uttar Pradesh had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Pacific Electric Power Development Corporation for setting up the 400 MW Jawaharpur Thermal Power Project in Uttar Pradesh. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted by the promoters to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on December 26, 1996 for techno-economic clearance has not been taken up for detailed scrutiny as the same is incomplete in regard to the tie-up of essential inputs and financing arrangements. As per the details furnished by the promoters in their DPR, Unit-I of the project would be commissioned in 40 months and Unit-II in 46 months from financial closure. The time by which the project is likely to become functional can be determined only after it achieves financial closure. The scheme would be considered for techno-economic clearance of CEA only after the pending inputs are tied up by the promoters. Details regarding the financial arrangements for the project would become available only after the promoters achieve financial closure and submit the firm financial package to CEA, with the recommendations of the State Government, for approval.

Setting up of Power Plants in Meghalaya

1480. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some power plants in Meghalaya during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial outlays; and